

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 309

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Robert Fisher on his distinguished tenure as President of Belmont University.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to recognize those eminent university administrators who have served their schools and students with the utmost devotion and enthusiasm, thereby improving the state of higher education in Tennessee;

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert Fisher is one of those estimable individuals, having guided Belmont University with clear vision and a steady hand as its President since April of 2000; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Fisher's tenure, the school's enrollment has risen nearly seventy percent and the campus has seen significant expansion with the additions of the Curb Event Center, Beaman Student Life Center, the Gordon E. Inman Center, the Troutt Theater Complex, several new residence halls and parking facilities, and current construction of a new pharmacy building; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2008, Belmont University hosted the 2008 Town Hall Debate, an event that placed the university and its home city of Nashville squarely in the national spotlight; and

WHEREAS, that this signal event took place at Belmont was due largely to Dr. Fisher's tireless efforts, and for his dedicated advocacy and perseverance in bringing the debate to his university, he was named 2008 Tennessean of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert Fisher has brought to Belmont University much experience in the field of higher education administration. Prior to his current appointment, he was Vice-President of Academic Affairs at Arkansas State University for four years and he held the post of Dean of the School of Business at Henderson State University for ten years; and

WHEREAS, his own university education includes earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Henderson State University, a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Memphis, and a Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, experienced as well as educated in matters of business, Dr. Fisher has contributed numerous articles to the corpus of literature on leadership and management, and he has lent his acumen in the areas of human resources and strategic planning to such notable concerns as the Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Alltel, Arkla Gas, and the United States Department of Transportation, to name just a few; and

WHEREAS, along with Belmont University's Vice-President of University Advancement, Dr. Bo Thomas, Dr. Fisher co-authored *Real Dream Teams: Seven Practices Used by World-Class Team Leaders to Achieve Extraordinary Results*, which describes for a general audience those common elements that characterize a host of successful teams; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Fisher has also accumulated significant experience in the field of international business serving in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as a Fulbright Scholar and delivering a keynote address at the Arabian Society for Human Resource Management Conference in Bahrain; and

WHEREAS, interested in more general human concerns outside the world of business, Dr. Fisher, along with his wife, Judy, co-authored the book *Life is a Gift: Inspiration from the Soon Departed*, based on the lessons they learned while interviewing over one hundred terminally ill patients of Nashville's Alive Hospice; and

WHEREAS, a valued and extremely active member of the Nashville community, Dr. Fisher has served on the Boards of Directors of many organizations, including The PENCIL Foundation, the Nashville Alignment for Public Education, Alignment Nashville, The United Way of Metropolitan Nashville, The YMCA of Middle Tennessee, The Nashville Symphony, The Country Music Foundation, The Boy Scouts of Tennessee, Cumberland Region Tomorrow, and

The National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Board and as the Chairman of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Fisher has enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of thirty-eight years, Judy, who serves Belmont University as a campus-wide coordinator of interior construction and exterior landscaping and lighting; the Fishers have been richly blessed with a beautiful family, which includes three children, two sons-in-law, and four grandsons; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly, the citizens of Nashville, and the people of Tennessee are fortunate indeed to have such a capable and energetic individual as Dr. Robert Fisher at the helm of one of the State's brightest lights in the world of higher education; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Dr. Robert Fisher, commend him on his distinguished tenure as President of Belmont University, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend to him our most heartfelt wishes for much continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.